

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00492 011720Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IGA-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04

SIL-01 AID-05 /087 W

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R 011647Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5571

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0492

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, MASS, NU

SUBJECT: STORY ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TERMINATION

1. LA PRENSA OF JAN 31 CARRIES BANNER HEADLINE "UNITED STATES CUTS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMOZA." STORY IS BASED ON AP DESPATCH BY ROBERT CULLEN.

2. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT VERY UNSETTLED CONDITIONS AND FOCUS ON U.S. AS MAJOR ACTOR IN CURRENT SITUATION, THIS STORY HAS POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. GEN. JOSE R. SOMOZA, INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND HALF-BROTHER OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA, ASSUMED STORY TO BE TRUE AND EXPRESSED HIS DISGUST WITH U.S. TO DEFATT.

3. THE PROMOTERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE, BOTH OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND BUSINESS SECTOR, ARE LIKELY TO INTERPRET THIS NEWS AS THE SIGNAL FROM THE U.S. THEY HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA.

4. EMBASSY WILL RESPOND TO INITIAL PRESS INQUIRIES IN TERMS OF NOT BEING ABLE TO COMMENT ON BUDGET WHICH IS NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL PRESENTED TO CONGRESS. HOWEVER, EMBASSY REQUESTS CONSIDERATION OF NEED TO RESPOND MORE FORTHCOMINGLY EITHER IN ADVANCE OF BUDGET PRESENTATION OR AS SOON AS IT IS PUBLIC.

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5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. IS CUTTING FMS ASSISTANCE PART OF AN OVERALL POLICY OR IS NICARAGUA BEING SINGLED OUT? B. DOES THE USG CONSIDER NICARAGUA TO BE A GROSS AND CONSISTENT VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS? C. IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, ISN'T THE LEAKING OF DECISION TO CUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE DESTABILIZING?

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Message Attributes

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